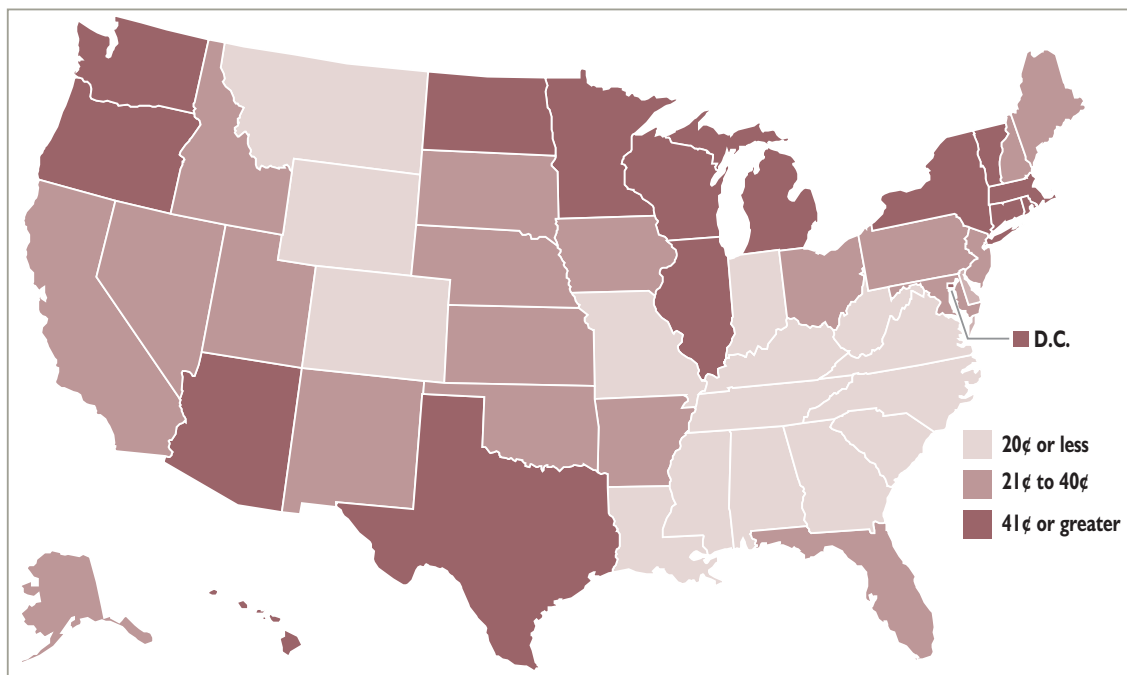


State Cancer
Legislative
Database Program

CIGARETTE EXCISE TAX LAWS

F A C T S H E E T • J U N E 1 9 9 7

Excise Tax Rate Per Pack of Cigarettes (Legislation Enacted Through December 1996)



Trends in Cigarette Excise Taxes

States first began enacting cigarette excise tax legislation in 1921, when Iowa imposed a 2 cents per pack tax. All states have had such laws since 1969, with North Carolina being the last state to impose an excise tax.

At the end of 1996, state excise tax rates ranged from 2.5 cents per pack in Virginia to 82.5 cents per pack in Washington. Since 1992, the average excise tax rate on cigarettes has increased from 25.2* to 33.8 cents per pack.

*Since Hawaii's tax rate in 1992 was 40% of the wholesale price of tobacco products, Hawaii was excluded from the 1992 calculation.

Dedicated Excise Taxes

Eleven states have enacted legislation requiring a proportion of cigarette excise taxes to be dedicated to cancer or tobacco control programs or funds. Excise tax dollars are designated for a variety of purposes, including research, health education programs, cancer surveillance, and medical care. Examples include:

- Oregon's Tobacco Use Reduction Account, which funds tobacco prevention and education programs.
- California's Breast Cancer Fund, which supports breast cancer research and control.
- Rhode Island's Central Cancer Registry and Prevention Fund.
- The New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research and projects approved by the Commission.

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 1997.

Summary of State Cigarette Excise Taxes

(Through December 1996)

State	Tax Rate in Cents	Effective Date of Tax Rate	Tax Dedicated for Cancer or Tobacco Control Purposes
Alabama	16.5	7-1-84	
Alaska	29	9-10-89	
Arizona	58	11-28-94	•
Arkansas	31.5	7-1-93	
California	37	1-1-94	•
Colorado	20	7-1-86	
Connecticut	50	7-1-94	
Delaware	24	1-1-91	
District of Columbia	65	7-1-93	
Florida	33.9	7-1-90	
Georgia	12	4-1-71	
Hawaii	60	7-1-93	
Idaho	28	7-1-94	•
Illinois	44	7-14-93	
Indiana	15.5	7-1-87	
Iowa	36	6-1-91	
Kansas	24	10-1-85	
Kentucky	3	7-1-70	
Louisiana	20	8-1-90	•
Maine	37	7-1-91	
Maryland	36	5-1-92	
Massachusetts	76	10-1-96	•
Michigan	75	5-1-94	
Minnesota	48	7-1-92	
Mississippi	18	6-1-85	
Missouri	17	10-1-93	
Montana	18	8-15-93	
Nebraska	34	7-1-93	•
Nevada	35	7-1-89	
New Hampshire	25	2-20-90	
New Jersey	40	7-1-90	•
New Mexico	21	7-1-93	•
New York	56	6-1-93	
North Carolina	5	8-1-91	
North Dakota	44	7-1-93	
Ohio	24	1-1-93	
Oklahoma	23	6-1-87	
Oregon*	68	2-1-97	•
Pennsylvania	31	8-19-91	
Rhode Island	61	7-1-95	•
South Carolina	7	3-23-77	
South Dakota	33	7-1-95	
Tennessee	13	6-1-69	
Texas	41	7-1-90	
Utah	26.5	7-1-91	
Vermont	44	7-1-95	
Virginia	2.5	9-1-66	
Washington	82.5	7-1-96	
West Virginia	17	6-1-78	
Wisconsin	44	9-1-95	
Wyoming	12	7-1-89	

*Through a voter initiative, Oregon increased its excise tax in November 1996, effective February 1, 1997.

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 1997.